

St Joseph's Specialist Trust, Cranleigh, Surrey

Teaching Assistant University Placement Position 2025-26



£18,469 per year (entry point of TA scale)

Term time only working, 36 hours per week 39 weeks per year

*With an additional £1,000 Retention Bonus***

Do you want to change lives and take the first steps towards building a rewarding career?

We continue to have a number of university students on their placement year, who have joined our team. This placement is particularly suited to psychology students or any students considering future employment in education where SEN experience will be invaluable. We accept applications from students in any subject area. We also have permanent Teaching Assistant roles available which may interest recent graduates wishing to gain experience in an SEN environment.

A Teaching Assistant role at St Joseph's is very different from a mainstream TA position. During the school week, you will be supporting students (aged 5-19) with severe social communication difficulties, complex learning disabilities and often challenging behaviours to access therapy-based education. You will be trained to develop the skills and confidence to help some of society's most vulnerable individuals to achieve their potential and to prepare them for adult life. Some of our students may require assistance with personal care to remain clean and comfortable (full training given).

What are we looking for?

We are looking for applicants with empathy and compassion, physical and mental resilience and the drive to make a real difference to the lives of young people.

- Literacy and Numeracy Skills: you will need to support the students in their learning and be able to read, understand and complete medication forms, risk assessments and student reports and records.
- Common Sense: you will need to work in a team and dynamically risk assess challenging situations to keep yourself and others safe
- Communication skills: you need to be able to communicate effectively with children, families and professionals
- Patience: you will need to adapt to the pace of each individual young person and be able to remain calm when faced with anxious, emotional or frustrated behaviours, some of which would be deemed unacceptable elsewhere

Placement Details

Apart from the range of benefits we offer all of our team, a placement as a Teaching Assistant at St Joseph's will equip you with a range of transferable skills including:

- Team working and collaboration
- Stakeholder management – building excellent working relationships with other team members and children
- Creativity, problem solving and organisational skills
- An insight into the education, care and special needs sectors
- A twice weekly TA training package that includes theory and practical sessions and leads to a teaching apprentice qualification which has been approved by the CPD standards office.

This is a 2-year training package but successful applicants will be awarded the modules they complete whilst here.

St Joseph's Specialist Trust is a special school, college and children's home located on a beautiful 23-acre site in Cranleigh, 20 minutes from Guildford and an adult supported living house. We have a staff team of approaching 250 supporting our students in education and care. You will play a pivotal role in the learning support of our young people with an opportunity to progress your career.

Why work for us?

We offer an actual salary of £18,469 (paid in 12 monthly instalments) for working 39 weeks in education (term time including CPD days), commencing at the beginning of September 2025.

Other benefits include:

- Free lunch when on duty
- Free on-site parking (if own transport)
- £1,000 retention bonus - £250 after 1 month, £250 after 1 year, £500 after 18 months at Trust (many placement students stay on for one day a week around their studies in their final year)
- Medicash and Life Assurance schemes
- Induction programme including safeguarding and specialist certified training (Team Teach positive behaviour support training)
- CPD modules and 1:1 support
- Employee assistance service (confidential, professional wellbeing and counselling service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all staff for issues affecting home or work)
- Excellent network of support across the organisation including a team of Adult Mental Health First Aid and Occupational Health

Due to the nature of our environment and the challenges posed by our students, **physical and mental resilience is required**. This includes the physical agility to move across our 23-acre site and support children in social, leisure and education activities offsite.

Own transport is desirable due to the semi-rural location of the Trust. There are buses from Guildford to Cranleigh.

How to apply

In order to be considered for shortlisting for interview, please a fully completed application form (including full education and employment history, 5 year address history – including university term time addresses, a bit about yourself and why you are applying for this role, what experience you have and what you can bring to the role and what you hope to get from the role), per safer recruitment guidelines for our setting.

For an application pack (including form, job profile and person specification) or further information please email the Recruitment Team at recruitment@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk or call on 01483 272449 and ask for recruitment, who will be able to assist.

We will interview suitable candidates as received. Please note that we do not sponsor applicants to relocate from overseas at this time. There are several placement positions available.

See our website - [Staff Vacancies - St Joseph's Specialist Trust](#) for further details of the Trust and the recruitment tab for details of the role and also a link to the electronic application form.

St Joseph's Specialist Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position requires an enhanced DBS disclosure and take up of references.